



News From Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis 32nd Congressional District of California

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SOLIS OFFERS AMENDMENT TO PROTECT DRINKING WATER **Committee Marks Up Energy Legislation**

WASHINGTON, D.C.-Today, Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (CA-32), Ranking Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, offered an amendment during the House Energy and Commerce Committee mark-up of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Solis' amendment would ban the injection of diesel fuel as an additive in hydraulic fracturing into underground sources of drinking water.

Hydraulic fracturing is the practice of injecting water with some other fluid into the ground at high pressure to break apart rocks containing methane gas. Each place where the water and additive is injected will spread hundreds of feet underground. In many instances the water and additive is not completely cleaned up and water tables for drinking water have become contaminated by the additive.

"Underground sources of drinking water are the source of groundwater for all current and future drinking water supplies. It doesn't make sense to intentionally put diesel fuel into and near our groundwater sources. By adopting my amendment, we will prevent the need for costly cleanup, save taxpayers money, help ensure water reliability, and protect public health," said Congresswoman Solis.

Halliburton, BJ Services Company and Schulmberger Technology are the three major corporations which signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Environmental Protection Agency stating that they will not use diesel in hydraulic fracturing activities. However, the agreement is not enforceable and new corporations practicing hydraulic fracturing are not party to the voluntary agreement.

A Republican provision in the bill eliminates all EPA authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act to protect sources of drinking water from improper or harmful hydraulic fracturing practices now or in the future. It eliminates existing statutory authority to ensure that hydraulic fracturing does not endanger underground sources of drinking water by removing hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas operations from the term "underground injection."

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